

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NOVOSTI ARTICLE ON ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: ROME 5968

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ORIGINAL
RUSSIAN TEXT OF REQUESTED ARTICLE, AUTHORED BY VLADIMIR
YERMAKOV, A "POLITICAL OBSERVER" FOR NOVOSTI. ARTICLE IS
ENTITLED "WHEN EXTREMES MEET".
WHEN EXTREMES MEET. BY VLADIMIR YERMAKOV (A.P.N.).
THE KIDNAPPING OF ALDO MORO, CHAIRMAN OF THE ITALIAN
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S NATIONAL COUNCIL AND ITALY'S
FORMER PRIME MINISTER, ALTHOUGH IT HAS ALREADY LOST ITS
SENSATIONAL TASTE, STILL REMAINS AN IMPORTANT EVENT AF-
FECTING GREATLY THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE APENNINES.
-- TWO CIRCUMSTANCES ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF OBSERVERS:
THE TIMING OF THE CRIME AND ITS PURPOSE. ITALY JUST BE-
GAN THE FIRST STEPS OUT OF A SEVERE POLITICAL CRISIS
WHICH DEEPLY TOUCHED THE VERY STRUCTURE OF POWER. A FEW
MONTHS OF ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE, UNCERTAINTY, AND AP-
PREHENSION HAVE BEEN CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE COUN-
TRY'S LIFE. THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED AS TO HOW TO GET
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OUT OF THAT QUAGMIRE WHERE THE COUNTRYMLAD BEEN LED BY 30
YEARS OF UNINTERRRUPTED RULE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS,
DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY WASHINGTON.
-- EPICENTER OF AN INTERNATIONAL PLOT.
-- UNDISGUISED AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN THE ITALIAN
CRISIS, WHEN WASHINGTON DEMANDED THAT THE COMMUNISTS --
THE SECOND LARGEST PARTY IN PARLIAMENT -- NOT BE ALLOWED

TO ENTER THE CORRIDORS OF POWER, ONLY COMPLICATED THE SITUATION HAVING HEATED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE TO THE BREAKING POINT. DESPITE AMERICAN INTERFERENCE, THE FORMATION OF THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW BASED -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 30 YEARS THE COMMUNISTS HAVE JOINED IT -- IS A TESTIMONY TO THE FACT THAT A SERIOUS STEP HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD ITALY'S EMERGENCE FROM THE CRISIS AND THAT THE OLD FORMS OF OUTSIDE PRESSURE DON'T BRING THE DESIRED RESULTS.

-- AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, ON THE THRESHOLD OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, THE "MORO OPERATION" TAKES PLACE. HE DISAPPEARS FROM THE POLITICAL ARENA. AND IT IS PERFECTLY NATURAL THAT THIS "OPERATION" HAS AGAIN AGGRAVATED THE TENSION IN THE COUNTRY TO THE BREAKING POINT.

-- ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT CERTAIN FORCES ARE TRYING ULTIMATELY TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY, UNDERMINE IT FROM THE INSIDE AND PUT AN END TO THOSE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS THE WEAKEST LINK IN THE ATLANTIC PACT CHAIN, THE COUNTRY, IN MY OPINION, IS IN THE CENTER OF AN EVIL INTERNATIONAL PLOT. THE THREADS OF WHICH REACH OUT TO THE CIA AND TO NATO HEADQUARTERS IN EVERT. BUT THIS CONSPIRACY HAS SOMETHING TO DO NOT ONLY WITH ITALY. IT IS MUCH BROADER. THE MATTER INVOLVES MEASURES FOR DRAWING SPAIN INTO NATO, FOR GREECE'S RETURN
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TO THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION OF THE PACT, AND ULTIMATE SWING TO THE RIGHT OF THE POLITICAL AXIS IN PORTUGAL, WHERE, AS IS KNOWN, A CABINET OF THE SOCIALISTS AND A CONSERVATIVE PARTY -- THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC CENTER -- HAS BEEN FORMED.

-- BUT I AM REPEATING, ITALY IS THE PLOT'S EPICENTER. THE SITUATION'S PECULIARITY IS THAT IF PREVIOUSLY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CONTROLLING THE COUNTRY THROUGH ITS "OWN" PARTIES AND ITS "OWN" POLITICIANS, NOW, WHEN CHANGES INSIDE THE CDP ITSELF ARE TAKING PLACE, THESE OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. THAT'S WHY THE AMERICANS NOW FACE THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING THEIR CONTROL OVER THE APENNINES BY USING A DIFFERENT METHOD - THE PATH OF THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE PRESENT STATE AND THE CREATION OF SOME KIND OF A "NEW ORDER" IN ITALY, WHERE THE COMMUNISTS WILL BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE BEHIND A "CORDON SANITAIRE".
--GENERAL YARBOROUGH NAMES THE CIA.

-- ALL THE EXISTING SUBVERSIVE GROUPS -- THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 OF THEM -- ARE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE IRRESPECTIVE

OF THEIR POLITICAL COLORING.

-- WILLIAM YARBOROUGH, FORMER CHIEF OF THE C.I.A.'S DEPARTMENT OF "CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS" WROTE NOT LONG AGO: "SO-CALLED BLIND TERRORISM IS A TACTIC WORKED OUT BY THE C.I.A. WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF VARIOUS ATLANTIC ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS USED MAINLY AS A KEY ELEMENT IN VARIOUS PROGRAMS, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS 'DESTABILIZING' GOVERNMENT AND PERSUADING THE POPULATION TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A STRONG POLICE STATE." AND HE CONTINUES ON: ONE OF THE CHANNELS USED BY C.I.A. IS "THE CONSTANT

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GROWTH OF EXTREMIST GROUPS, DISGUISED UNDER THE RIGHT AND LEFT LABELS, WHICH PROVIDES BOTH GENERAL POLITICAL COVER FOR TERRORISTS, AND A COVER FOR THE USE OF THESE TERRORISTS AS WELL." TERRORIST OPERATIONS ARE OFTEN PLANNED AND CONDUCTED IN COUNTRIES THE "U.S. CONSIDERS TO BE UNSTABLE."

-- EXCUSE ME FOR SUCH A LONG QUOTATION, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE AMERICAN GENERAL HAS SUFFICIENTLY OPENED THE CURTAIN OVER THE TECHNIQUE AND PRACTICE OF DESTABILIZING BY MEANS OF TERRORIST ACTIONS, AS WORKED OUT BY THE C.I.A. NOW THE RED BRIGADES -- AN ULTRA-LEFT TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, CALLED BY SOME MAOIST, BY OTHERS A CREATURE OF THE C.I.A. AND BY STILL OTHERS "TRULY REVOLUTIONARY" -- ARE BLAMED FOR ALDO MORO'S KIDNAPPING.

-- IN THIS CONNECTION I RECOLLECT A HALF-FORGOTTEN EPISODE FROM THE FIRST RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1905. THEN THE SOCIALIST-REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WHICH MADE POLITICAL

TERROR THE BASIS OF ITS ACTIVITY, CAME FORWARD AS AN ACTIVE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCE. SOME OF ITS SLOGANS AND ACTIONS RESEMBLE SOMEHOW THE RED BRIGADES. SO, A CERTAIN YEVNO AZEF, ONE OF THE PARTY'S FOUNDERS, LED THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMBAT ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIST-REVOLUTIONARIES. HE HEADED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PLEVE, THE TSAR'S MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF MOSCOW, WHO WAS THE TSAR'S UNCLE, AND OF MANY OTHER IMPORTANT DIGNITARIES OF THE TSARIST REGIME. BUT SINCE 1893, AZEF HAD BEEN A REGULAR PAID AGENT OF THE TSARIST OKHRANKA, I.E. THE SECRET POLITICAL POLICE CREATED FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST REVOLUTION. AND IN ORDER TO AGGREGATE TENSION IN THE COUNTRY, TO CARRY ON A STRUGGLE AGAINST THE REVOLUTION, AND TO GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE RUTHLESSLY THE TRUE FIGHTERS AGAINST THE TSAR, THE OKHRANKA BLESSED THE MURDERS OF THE STATE'S HIGH OFFICIALS AND EVEN THE TSAR'S RELATIVES. AND YEVNO AZEF ORGANIZED TERRORIST ACTIONS AND BETRAYED AT THE SAME TIME HIS PARTY COMRADES-IN-ARMS....

-- OF COURSE I AM NOT GOING TO DRAW HISTORICAL PARALLELS BETWEEN TSARIST RUSSIA AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY AND CONTEMPORARY ITALY. BUT IT IS HARDLY POSSIBLE TO GET RID OF A FEELING THAT THE RED BRIGADES HAVE THEIR OWN AZEF WHO WORKS USING OTHER METHODS FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND, QUITE POSSIBLY, SERVES NOT EVEN ITALIAN BUT FOREIGN BOSSES, MOST LIKELY, THE C.I.A. MENTIONED BY GENERAL WILLIAM YARBOROUGH.

-- I THINK, THAT AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE RED BRIGADES (IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE THREE THOUSAND OF THEM) ARE SINCERE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE NECESSITY OF DECISIVE AND UNCOMPROMISING STRUGGLE AGAINST CAPITALISM AND FOR SOCIALISM. THE TROUBLE HOWEVER IS IN THE FACT THAT NONE OF THE RED BRIGADES' ACTIONS HAS BROUGHT ITALY EVEN A SINGLE STEP CLOSER TO THAT TARGET. MOREOVER, EVERY ONE OF SUCH ACTIONS -- MURDER, KIDNAPPING, EXPROPRIATION -- ERECTS ADDITIONAL IMPEDIMENTS IN THE WAY OF SOCIAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL CHANGES SO URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE COUNTRY. PERHAPS SOME OF THE BRIGADES' MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING IS DONE FOR THE REVOLUTION. BUT IN REALITY THEY DO EVERYTHING FOR COUNTERREVOLUTION CREATING CONDITIONS FOR -- USING THE WORDS OF GENERAL YARBOROUGH -- THE CREATION OF

A "STRONG POLICE STATE". AS IS KNOWN, WASHINGTON HAS ALWAYS SYMPATHIZED WITH "BLACK COLONELS" AND JUNTAS OF GENERALS.

-- THE KIDNAPPING OF ALDO MORO IS UNDOUBTEDLY AN INTEGRAL PART OF AN ANTI-ITALIAN PLOT, AND NOT BY CHANCE HAS BEEN COMMITTED RIGHT AFTER THE NOMINATION OF FRANK CARLUCCI, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL, TO BE THE C.I.A. DEPUTY DIRECTOR. CARLUCCI HAS DONE HIS UTMOST IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS "REVOLUTIONARY CARNATIONS" THERE, AND PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN OVERTHROWING THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF SALVADOR ALLENDE IN CHILE. HERE WE HAVE THE LAST LINK IN THE CHAIN. THE EXTREME ENDS ARE COMING TOGETHER. AND NOW A LOT OF THINGS DEPEND ON HOW KEEN WILL BE THE VIGILANCE OF THE ITALIAN WORKING PEOPLE, THE SOLIDARITY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTIES AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY.
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